John Economos surveys the passion and the pride of a mighty club

Sydney Olympic, easily the giants of Australian Soccer as far as crowd support is concerned, had historically always been starved of success till 1983.

But briefly, let's wind back the clock to 1961.

In 1961, Pan Hellenic (as the club was known then), came into first division. The coach was the Hungarian Julias Polgyar, a former Hungarian first division star who had migrated to Australia.

Pan Hellenic's president at that time, was the very popular and powerful, George Zantey, who realising the club's playing staff needed bolstering to survive in first division, immediately signed some Greek imports.

Zantey brought out big name players of the likes of George Yangou, Angelo Mavropoulos, Jim Hatzis, Themis Toussis, Sot Patrinos and later, the popular but erratic striker, Johnny Karagianis who proved to be a great crowd pleaser.

In 1968, under coach Walter Tamandl, a former Austrian international and former player with Prague and Pan Hellenic, Pan Hellenic reached the NSW Grand Final against Hakoah at the Sydney Sportsground.

After so many disappointments over the years, Pan Hellenic supporters felt that their time to celebrate a triumph had arrived. A crowd of 26,000 crammed into the ground with great expectations, but it was not to be their day.

Despite Pan Hellenic fielding one of the very best players to have ever come to an Australian club, the Greek immortal Takis Loukanidis, Hakoah yet again proved too strong to defeat the Greek team 4-2.

Following Tamandl, the much loved 'Uncle' Joe Vlasits came to the club and immediately inspired a Youth policy within the club, a policy that was previously alien to the Greeks.

With the inception of the National Soccer League in 1977, the old Pan Hellenic was folded and a brand new club created with the name **Sydney Olympic**.

Sydney Olympic's first president was Michael Kontos and their first NSL coach was 1976 Rothmans Medal winner the ever-reliable Bruce Stowell.

The same year, a new official surfaced, to take over the Olympic presidency from Mr Kontos who had gone overseas.

The man was John Constantine, a young Sydney Greek lawyer. Constantine's regime spanned from 1977 to 1982 when the current president, Mr Jim Petinellis took over.

In the last of the 1979 season, Sydney Olympic played St George at the Marconi Stadium to settle which club would be relegated. Saints defeated Olympic 1-nil, the goal coming from St George's youthful midfielder, Peter Katholos, who buried a 25-metre drive that proved to be the last nail in Olympic's coffin.

But rather than hold a grudge against Kathlos, Olympic approached St George and bought the young, powerful midfielder.

During Sydney Olympic's spell in the State League in 1980, coach Jim Adam managed to win for the club that year's Ampol Cup Final when they defeated Sydney Croatia 1-nil at the Sydney Sportsground before a crowd of 11,000.

In 1981, Olympic secured the services of ex-Manchester United's jovial Scot, Tommy Docherty. But Docherty lasted only four months. He flew back to England to take over Preston North End.

Doug Collins took up from where Docherty left off and stayed with the club till almost the end of the following year.

1983 saw the return of Tommy Docherty to Olympic but late in the season the two parties parted company and Manfred Schaefer made a most surprising return to top football.

Sydney Olympic that year, won it's very first major trophy when they defeated Victoria's Heidelberg United in the two legged National Cup Final 1-nil in both games. Hero of the NSL Cup Final was the young Olympic right flanker, Terry Patalis who scored the winning goal in each leg.

Much of the credit however, must go to Olympic's two top class defenders, Mike Coady and Martyn Rogers.

Last year, Sydney Olympic made a belated run for the NSL Championship but was pipped on the post by Eddie Thompson's Sydney City. However, in the NSW NSL Grand Final, Olympic managed to defeat Sydney City to earn the right to play for the National Championship against Victorian heavyweights, South Melbourne.

South Melbourne however defeated Olmypic in both legs by the identical scoreline (2-nil).

This year, Sydney Olympic made a disasterous start in the League when the squad was hit by a most unusual string of serious injuries to key players.

The talented, ball-playing sweeper, Tony Dakos, was the first to require surgery to have his medial and lateral ligaments repaired to his left knee. Only recently has Dakos made a comeback.

Then Peter Katholos severly damaged ligaments also to his knee which required complicated surgery. Katholos will be out of action for another eight weeks. Then striker Nick Theodorakopoulos broke his leg.

Other injuries followed to captain Peter Raskopoulos, Chris Kalantzis and deadly striker, Marshall Soper.

But there is light at the end of the tunnel. Sydney Olympic squad has been greatly bolstered in recent weeks by the guest appearance of Celtic's Scottish World Cup winger, Davie Provan who arrived three weeks ago, and Lakis Papaionnou from Greece.

Papaionnou, a member of the Greek World Cup X1, toured last year with his Greek club side Iraklis which participated in the World Soccer Series. He is currently one of the leading players in Greece where he controls his club and national team from the central midfield position.

Club captain, Peter Raskopoulos, although only 23, has no less than eight years experience in NSL football. Peter is the gear-box for Olympic, and is one of the best passers of the ball in the League.

Martyn Rogers, a former Manchester United reserve player, is a defender of quality. Since Rogers joined Olympic two seasons ago, his presence in the back-four has injected solidarity.

Together with Dakos and international left-back, Graham Jennings, the Olympic defence evoked a degree of respectability never before achieved.

Gary Phillips at the right fullback or midfield with his tough, non-stop tackling, is another vital ingredient to the Olympic line-up.

Olympic skipper Peter Raskopoulos, with Peter Katholos in support, battles against Canberra.

Upfront in the Olympic attack-line, they have two strikers that on their day are match winner: the explosive and dynamic, Marshall Soper, and left-flank-striker, teenager, Chris Kalantzis.

Soper, has a quality most desirable in a champion. That is an unyielding will to win no matter what the odds. As well, he is one of the few real personalities in Soccer today. By that, I mean whenever he gets the ball, he is one of the few players who can lift the crowd.

And last but not least, special mention must be made for Sydney Olympic's longest serving player, and possibly the NSL's longest serving player with the one club, none other than Gary Meier, underestimated goalkeeper.

People ask when Gary is going to retire as he's been with the club for 14 consecutive years. But the gentle-giant turns 30 on September 10, an age when most good goalkeepers are only just starting to blossom.

So far this year, Olympic with the above mentioned glut of injuries, have achieved mixed results. But they are once again in the NSL Cup Final where they will meet Victoria's Preston. Even, if they don't manage to win the League Championship this year, they will definitely be starting as favourites for the NSL Cup Final and will be out to duplicate their success they achieved in 1983.

OLYMPIC AIRWAYS NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

Match Programme

VOL. 5 No. 6 PRATTEN PARK SATURDAY 22 JUNE 1985

NSL NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

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Last week's result for Sydney Olympic against Blacktown City was indeed a good one for our Supporters,however I feel sure that we must improve with the return of Ziras, Lambroppolos and the good form of Provan,Kalatzis and Soper today could be the day for Sydney Olympic.
I take this opportunity in wishing all the BEST for the future of the season to St.GEORGE S.F.C. their coach Frank Arok,all the Players and Directors on behalf of Sydney Olympic.

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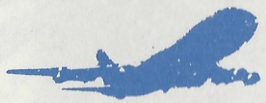

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A RULES change which will come into effect on July 25 is that a goalkeeper in his own penalty area, having released the ball after taking four steps, will not be allowed to pick it up again unless it has been touched by a member of his own team outside the area or by a member of the opposing team.

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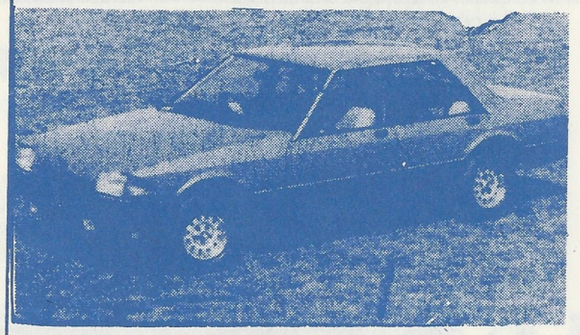

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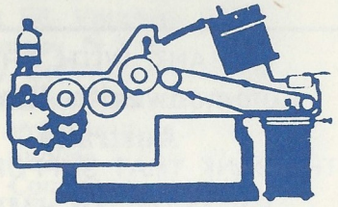

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ROUND 17 — 29-30 JUNE

1. Brisbane City v Footscray
2. West Adelaide v Melbourne Croatia
3. Green Gully v Heidelberg United
4. Preston v Sunshine George Cross
5. South Melbourne v Adelaide City
6. Brunswick United Juventus v Brisbane Lions

1. Inter-Monaro v Sydney Croatia
2. Penrith City v Sydney City
3. Sydney Olympic v Wollongong City
4. Marconi v Leichhardt
5. Newcastle Rosebud United v Blacktown City
6. St. George v Canberra City

ROUND 16 — 22-23 JUNE

1. Heidelberg United v West Adelaide
2. Melbourne Croatia v Brisbane City
3. Brisbane Lions v South Melbourne
4. Adelaide City v Preston
5. Sunshine George Cross v Green Gully
6. Footscray v Brunswick United Juventus

1. Wollongong City v Penrith City
2. Sydney City v Inter-Monaro
3. Canberra City v Newcastle Rosebud United
4. Blacktown City v Marconi
5. Leichhardt v Sydney Olympic
6. Sydney Croatia v St. George

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Today, our supporters will have the attraction to be able to watch our Junior teams in action against our friendly rivals, Marrickville Olympic.

These matches are always considered as derbies and usually have the knack of bringing the best out of both teams.

In those encounters, reputations and favourites do not count and are not taken in consideration. From past results, the records show that both sets of teams are pretty evenly matched.

So today we look forward to a very exciting day of soccer culminating with our senior team, matching their skills with St.George.

For the last three weeks our U/13, U/14, U/15 and U/16 have won all their games and as you can see on the opposite page, the premiership results show that Sydney Olympic Juniors are 2nd placed in the U/13, 1st placed in the U/14 and U/15 and fifth in the U/16 with a good chance of making the final four by the end of the 1985 premiership.

I am sure both Sydney Olympic and Marrickville Olympic are going into this match with firm intentions to win and I am convinced the best teams on the day will win, therefore I am leaning on Sydney Olympic to take the honours and satisfy our hundreds of supporters.

On the other hand our boys should try to excell themselves in front of the exceptionally large crowd which will turn up to watch the main game between Sydney Olympic and St.George.

So young Olympians, it is now the time to show to our supporters how good you are and by the same token impress Messrs. J. Xipolitas and M. Schaffer, the senior coaches.

This evening at the Top Ryde Civic Centre, Cnr. Devlin and Blaxland Road, we are holding our Annual Ball and while the attendance is already expected to be quite high, I am sure we shall be able to accommodate the few stragglers who have not yet reserved their tickets and tables. So come along and we shall be happy to see you and enjoy the evening with us.

The invitation also applies to all Marrickville Olympic supporters.

We again thank our sponsors, Attiki Dairy Products, Micos Aluminium Industries, Sydney Bakery and J. Kelaiditis for their continued support.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wollongong	14	11	0	3	32	18	22
Canberra	13	8	3	2	28	19	19
Leichhardt	13	6	4	3	21	15	16
Newcastle	13	7	1	5	18	13	15
Sydney City	12	5	3	4	31	16	13
Croatia	14	4	5	5	22	23	13
Inter-Monaro	16	5	3	8	23	37	13
A.I.S.	10	4	4	2	27	20	12
Marconi	14	3	6	5	30	28	12
Blacktown	14	5	2	7	25	30	12
St George	12	5	2	5	23	28	12
Olympic	16	2	5	9	21	36	9
Penrith	15	3	2	10	20	38	8

SYD. OLYMPIC 1 — BLACKTOWN 2

The match at Pratten Park between the struggling Olympic and the Blacktown Demons was somewhat less than inspiring and looked destined to be goal-less until the 43rd minute when Demons Russell Gendle struck the Olympic woodwork with a well taken free kick, the ball rebounded to Alex Bottalico at the edge of the area and he cracked it into the top left hand corner of the net. 0-1.

The Demons second goal came in the 60th minute when Richard Roldan took a short corner with Chris Page and the latter's cross found David Scott who shot on the turn into the net. 0-2 Olympic could only manage a consolation goal in the 88th minute from Manny Spanoudakis.

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RD 12 — SAT JUNE 15

GROUP A

	U13	U14	U15	U16
Blacktown City v Apia	1-1	0-4	0-0	2-4
Granville v St George	2-2	0-4	0-10	0-1
Sutherland v Canterbury-M'ville	2-2	0-0	1-2	1-2
Sydney Olympic v Nepean	4-1	3-0	1-0	2-0
Illawarra v Marconi	0-2	1-0	3-1	0-3

GROUP B

Nth Bankstown v Central Coast	0-0	0-0	8-1	4-1
Ku-ring-gai v Baulkham Hills	1-1	0-1	0-5	1-0
Melita v Croatia	3-1	5-1	3-1	1-1
Gladesville v Southern Dists	0-2	2-1	3-4	0-1
Avala v Manly	2-1	2-0	2-0	-2

GROUP C

Sydney Yugal v Rockdale	0-8	0-3	3-0	1-5
Sydney City v Macarthur	6-0	2-2	1-1	2-0
Bankstown v Canterbury	2-0	2-0	2-1	0-2
Bathurst '75 v Blacktown	0-5	1-2	0-7	2-0

UNDER 13

GROUP A: Marconi 21, Olympic 16, Blacktown City 14, Illawarra 12, Nepean 10, Apia 9, Canterbury-M'ville 9, St George 8, Sutherland 5, Granville 4.
GROUP B: Southern Dists 17, Nth Bankstown 14, Gladesville 13, Melita 12, Ku-ring-gai 12, Avala 12, Baulkham Hills 10, Central Coast 10, Manly 3, Croatia 3.
GROUP C: Sydney City 20, Blacktown 20, Macarthur 16, Bankstown 14, Campbelltown 14, Canterbury 11, Rockdale 11, Bathurst 6, Yugal 2.

UNDER 14

GROUP A: Olympic 22, St George 19, Apia 16, Marconi 12, Nepean 8, Canterbury-M'ville 8, Sutherland 7, Illawarra 7, Blacktown City 5, Granville 4.
GROUP B: Melita 20, Nth Bankstown 15, Gladesville 14, Central Coast 13, Avala 13, Baulkham Hills 12, Ku-ring-gai 8, Manly 5, Croatia 4, Southern Dists 2.
GROUP C: Rockdale 22, Macarthur 17, Bankstown 17, Yugal 13, Blacktown 12, Sydney City 11, Canterbury 9, Campbelltown 7, Bathurst 6.

UNDER 15

GROUP A: Olympic 18, Illawarra 16, St George 14, Apia 12, Nepean 12, Blacktown City 12, Marconi 10, Sutherland 7, Canterbury-M'ville 7, Granville 0.
GROUP B: Melita 17, Nth Bankstown 16, Southern Dists 13, Gladesville 13, Avala 12, Manly 10, Central Coast 8, Baulkham Hills 7, Croatia 7, Ku-ring-gai 3.
GROUP C: Macarthur 21, Blacktown 20, Sydney City 18, Bankstown 14, Campbelltown 13, Canterbury 12, Bathurst 6, Yugal 5, Rockdale 5.

UNDER 16

GROUP A: Apia 17, Marconi 16, Nepean 15, St George 14, Olympic 13, Canterbury-M'ville 13, Blacktown City 11, Illawarra 5, Granville 2, Sutherland 2.
GROUP B: Manly 18, Avala 16, Ku-ring-gai 14, Melita 12, Southern Dists 11, Gladesville 11, Croatia 9, Central Coast 8, Nth Bankstown 7, Baulkham Hills 0.
GROUP C: Sydney City 20, Canterbury 18, Bathurst 18, Rockdale 14, Blacktown 11, Bankstown 10, Macarthur 8, Campbelltown 8, Yugal 7.

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Πανηγυρική ατμόσφαιρα επικρατούσε στό Πράττεν Πάρκ τήν περασμένη Κυριακή μετά τήν λήξη τού αγώνα. Δημοσιογράφοι καί φιλαθλοι είχαν νά λένε γιά τήν απόδοση τού Πρόβαν πού έδωσε φτερά σ' όλη τήν ομάδα καί ένώ έχανε με 2 - 0 κατάφερε νά πάρει τήν νίκη μέ 3—2 από τό Μπλάκταουν. «ι φιλαθλοι ενθουσιασμένοι δέν έφευγαν από τό γήπεδο, δ ότι περίμεναν νά δούν καί νά συγχαρούν τόν Πρόβαν καί όλους τούς παίκτες τού Ολύμπικ. Τά παιδιά ζητούσαν αύτόγραφα καί οί κοπέλες σκόρπιζαν φιλιά.

Καί οί πανηγυρισμοί συνεχίστηκαν πρώτα στό σπίτι τού γνωστού Πώλ Μπερτούτσι πού είχε πολλούς προσκεκλημένους μεταξύ τών οποίων ο Πρόβαν, ο πρόεδρος τού Ολύμπικ, γνωστοί συμπαροικοι καί ο πρόεδρος τής Ποδοσφαιρικής Ομοσπονδίας N.N.O. καθώς έπίσης καί ο έπίτιμος πρόεδρος τού Σ. Ολύμπικ κ. Κωνσταντάιν.

Από τό σπίτι τού κ. Μπερτούτσι, ο Πρόβαν καί ο πρόεδρος κ. Πετινέλης μαζί μέ τόν γνωστό Αλέκο Γκαλελή, ένθερμο υποστηρικτή τού Ολύμπικ, επισκεύθηκαν τήν Μυτιληνιακή Λέσχη φιλοξενούμενο: τού Δ. Σ. τής Μ. Αδελφότητας. πού είχαν διοργανώσει ταβέρνα NIGHT. Η υποδοχή ή φιλοξενία καί ή ατμόσφαιρα, όλο χαρά καί γλέντι.

Φεύγοντας από τήν Μ. Αδελφότητα, Πρόβαν, Πετινέλης καί Γκαλελής κατέληξαν, πού αλλού, στήν Λέσχη τού Ολύμπικ, σμίγοντας μαζί μέ τούς αλλους παίκτες τής ομάδας, διοικητικούς παράγοντες καί φιλαθλους γιά νά έξακολουθήσουν όλοι μαζί τό γλέντι.

Ο Πρόβαν πού έχει μείνει ενθουσιασμένος τόσο από τούς συμπαίκτες του όσο καί από τόν φιλαθλο Ελληνισμό, είπε ότι, θά έλθει καί τού χρόνου, ίσως πιό νωρίς, καί θά πρασπαθήσει νά φέρει μαζί του έναν έξ ίσου καλό παίκτη γιά τό Σ. Ολύμπικ.

Ο Πρόβαν έκτός από καλός παίκτης έχει καί πολύ καλό χαρακτήρα, καί κάνει όπως μάς είπε ο ίδιος, αθλητική ζωή. Μετά τόν αγώνα πίνει 3 - 4 μπύρες τήν αλλη μέρα δύο καί τήν παραπάνω μέρα μόνο μία. Από τήν Τετάρτη μέχρι τόν έπόμενο αγώνα πίνει μόνο σόδα καί κάνει κάθε πρωί προπόνηση μόνος του στήν αμμουδιά τού COOGE BEACH. Από τούς παίκτες τού Ολύμπικ τού έκαναν ειδική εντίπωση ο Ρασκόπουλος, Σόπερ καί Καλατζής.

Μετά τόν Χάρη ΜΙΧΑΗΛ καί Πήτερ ΣΦΗΚΑ τρίτος Έλληνας επιχειρηματίας ετοιμάζεται νά χρηματοδοτήσει τό Σ. Ολύμπικ πολύ σύντομα.

Τό πόσο δέν έχει ανακοινωθεί αλλά δέν έχει σημασία, αύτό πού μετράει πιό πολύ είναι ότι όλο καί περισσότεροι Έλληνες επιχειρηματίες θέλουν νά βοηθήσουν τήν Ελληνική ομάδα πού ονομάζεται Σύδνεϋ Ολύμπικ.

Εκτός από τούς μεγάλους χρηματοδότες πού βοηθούν οικονομικά τήν πρώτη ομάδα μας έχουμε καί αλλες εταιρίες πού προσφέρουν λεφτά στήν δεύτερη μας ομάδα όπως ή ATTIKI PRODUCTS, ή MICOS ALUMINIUM, ή SYDNEY BAKERY καί ο κύριος ΚΑΛΑΙΔΙΤΗΣ. Εξ αλλου ή εταιρία FLORIDA ORANGE JUICE είναι σπόνσερ τής γυναικείας ομάδας. Οί Ούγγαρέζοι έχουν περίπου 30 μεγάλους καί μικρούς σπόνσερ πού προσφέρουν λεφτά γιά τήν ST. GEORGE SOCCER CLUB. Καλό θά ήταν τού χρόνου οί Έλληνες σπόνσερ νά δεκαπλασιαστούν.

Τήν Παρασκευή 28η Ιουνίου ή εταιρία BEACH FASHION τού κ. Π. Σφήκα διοργανώνει στή Λέσχη τού Σ. Ολύμπικ BEACH WEAR FASHION PARADE. Εκτός από τά 5 μοντέλα πού θά παρουσιάσουν τά τελευταία μαγιό μόδας καί θαλασσινά είδη ένδυμασίας; θά σάς δασκεδάσουν καί οί καλλιτέχνες μας μέ τήν ορχήστρα μας πού παρουσιάζεται τώρα στή Λέσχη. Η είσοδος είναι έλευθέρα. Κλείστε έγκαίρως τό τραπέζι σας γιά μία ώραία βραδυά στήν Λέσχη μας.

Όπως ξέρουμε ο Πρόβαν ήλθε στό Ολύμπικ μέ λίγα λεφτά καί απέδειξε ότι είναι μεγάλος παίκτης. Γι' αύτό τό Δ. Συμβούλιο διοργανώνει τήν Κυριακή 28 Ιουνίου ένα πάρτυ γιά νά αποχαιρετήσει τόν αξιο αύτό παίκτη, μέ εισφορά 10 δολλάρια τό άτομο. Όλα τά κέρδει θά προσφερθούν στόν Πρόβαν ως μπόνους. Όλοι οί φιλαθλοι πρέπει νά τιμήσουν τόν Πρόβαν μέ τήν παρουσία τους.

Η ΦΙΦΑ αλλαζει τόν κανονισμό πού αφορά τόν τερματοφύλακα.

Από τις 25 Ιουνίου ο τερματοφύλακας όταν πιάσει τήν μπάλα μπορεί νά τήν κλωτσήσει μία φορά κάνοντας τά τέσσερα επιτρεπόμενα βήματα. Δέν μπορεί όμως νά τήν ξαναπιάσει καί νά τήν ξανακλωτσήσει μέσα στήν περιοχή του από πάσα συμπαίκτη του. Έχει τό δικαίωμα νά τήν κλωτσήσει γιά δεύτερη φορά μόνον όταν τήν δεχθεί από συμπαίκτη του πού βρίσκεται έξω από τήν μεγάλη περιοχή.

Εάν ο τερματοφύλακας παραβεί τόν κανονισμό ή τιμωρία θά είναι έμμεσο κτύπημα φάουλ στό σημείο πού έγινε ή παράβαση. Αύτό τό μέτρο πάρθηκε γιά νά μήν γίνεται σκόπιμη καθυστέρηση τού αγώνα.

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